



# THE SCORPION QUEEN

## Discussion Questions

- 1 Mina Fears' *The Scorpion Queen* is based on a Malian fairy tale. How is the fairytale structure evoked in the book? Are there any notable subversions?
- 2 Both Amie and Mariama led seemingly privileged lives before the events of the book. How do you think their respective struggles develop the story and their relationship?
- 3 How do the trials at the centre of the story impact the narrative? What techniques does author Mina Fears use to develop tension around the trials?
- 4 How does Amie's choice between fleeing and ending the trials impact her character? Do you think she'd be selfish to leave with Kader?
- 5 How does the book play with the idea of destiny and changing your fate?
- 6 How does Amie's role as Mariama's servant impact their relationship? What narrative techniques does Mina Fears use to develop the tension and romantic potential between the two leads?
- 7 Do themes of class and power have a large impact on characters in the book?
- 8 In what ways does location impact the themes of the novel? How do the main settings of the palace and the desert compare?
- 9 What do you think of Amie's relationship with her sister? How does it compare to her relationship with her fellow maid servants?
- 10 What role does magic play in the story? How does the author develop its importance using symbolism and other narrative techniques?

